REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter that applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Orten in view of Anderson. Claim 1 requires a wireless microphone having an antenna. The wireless microphone includes a coupling element for detachably fixing interchangeable communication modules to the microphone. The communication modules each include a module antenna for transmitting and receiving wireless communications over a network. Further, each communication module is adapted to communicate over a different network.

The combination of Orten and Anderson does not teach interchangeable communication modules, for a hearing aid wireless microphone, wherein each communication module is adapted to communicate over a different network. Anderson teaches a secondary wireless link 944 (Fig. 9), but does not teach that the wireless link is one of various interchangeable communication modules for communication over different networks. Orten teaches exchangeable base parts 9, but, like Anderson, fails to teach interchangeable communication modules that are adapted to communicate over different networks.

By providing a hearing aid wireless microphone having interchangeable communication modules for communication over different networks, the claimed microphone can be made small but highly versatile. The separate communication modules provide a hearing aid user with options about which communications system to choose. However, the circuitry to give effect to those options is kept separate from the microphone, reducing its size. The user, via the

interchangeable communications modules, can adapt the microphone to current needs at any time.

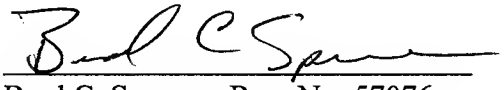
For the reasons discussed above, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1.

New claim 11 has been added. Claim 11 requires an interchangeable receiver module for receiving wireless communications from a remote device and a charging module for recharging a rechargeable battery in the wireless microphone. The receiver module and the charging module can be interchangeably operatively connected to the wireless microphone through the coupling element. The cited combination of references does not teach interchangeable receiver and charging modules. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is allowable over the cited combination of references.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. BOV1-36182.

Respectfully submitted,
PEARNE & GORDON, LLP

By: 
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